

# PERSISTENCE



*To Graduation*

Monthly E-news from the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Student Success



## New Skills for Youth Grant III Applications

The Kentucky Department of Education has released the Request for Applications (RFA) for the third round of the New Skills for Youth (NSFY) grant. The competitive grant process provides an incentive for local districts to transition state-operated area technical centers and locally-operated technical centers into regional academies.

The Kentucky department of Education has approximately \$440,000 available for this grant competition. The total award amount for each planning grant will be no more than \$110,000.

The regional career academies should be employer-driven, with business and industry partners providing direction in pathway decisions and work-based learning experiences. The academies are intended to be all-day learning environments that include both career and technical education and academic courses.

The grant opportunity can be found on the [KDE Competitive Grants webpage](#). All questions related to the grant opportunity must be sent to [KDERFP@education.ky.gov](mailto:KDERFP@education.ky.gov). The deadline for grant applicants to submit questions is Noon ET March 11. The deadline for submitting applications is 4 p.m. ET, March 27.

## Spotlight on Reducing Suspensions

School exclusion through out of school suspensions has been demonstrated to result in negative school experiences, dropout and other deleterious outcomes for students. We know that many schools and districts in Kentucky are working to reduce the use of suspension. If you would like to share your efforts with others, please reach out to the email at the bottom of this e-newsletter.

With respect to prevention practices, check out [this study](#) demonstrating the link between restorative practices and reducing out of school suspensions, and [this story](#) about taking the reverse suspension approach. Finally, take a look at [this site](#) with a collection of resources about restorative practice and dignity in schools. Check out the infographic shown which depicts the tale of two schools and the differing outcomes that can result when we approach unwanted behavior with intelligence and compassion.

## Relevant Research, Practice Tips, and Briefs

**Coding in Rural KY:** Check out [this article](#) from *Edutopia* about how coding in rural KY is promoting equity and engagement.

**National Dropout Data:** This [new report](#) from the Institute for Education Science provides updated data on high school dropout and completion rates.

**Stress Bias Impacts Test Scores:** Read [this article](#) about a study exploring the relationship between trauma, stress and testing.

**Love is Never Wasted:** The creators of the [Removed](#) videos (short powerful video series used for trauma informed training) have released a third part titled [Love is Never Wasted](#) to provide insight into how a child makes sense of fitting between two worlds.

**Trauma Informed Messaging for Teens:** Check out [this video](#) that reviews a unique study and approach for messaging, radical self-help and empowerment for teens around trauma.

**New Review Reinforces Positive Impacts of SEL:** A [new article](#) in *Kappan* adds to the growing evidence that social and emotional learning (SEL) produces short- and long-term academic and behavioral benefits for children and youth. Also, check out this SEL Equity guiding questions [worksheet](#).

**Brain-Wise Strategies to boost SEL:** Check out these [ten brain-wise strategies](#) that can support social and emotional competencies in students.

**Computer use as a Medium for Personalized Learning:** Read [this article](#) that highlights a backlash occurring around relying on computers with limited human interaction to provide personal learning for students.

**January 2019 Resolution and Resilience Happiness Calendar:** Check out this [calendar](#) that can help us explore well-being backed by science every day!

## Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

### Webinars

**The Web of Support – An Integrative Youth Development Framework:** Watch this pre-recorded [webcast](#) about a holistic approach to viewing youth and the adults that support them. A former KY educator and Youth Development Coordinator for the YMCA Safe Place Services shares the framework and its benefits.

**Deeper Learning Strategies for Any Classroom (Grades 6-12):** On Tuesday, [January 15](#) at 3:00 p.m. ET Dedra Stafford, coauthor of the book *Summarization in Any Subject: 60 Innovative, Tech-Infused Strategies for Deeper Student Learning*, will walk you through several of her favorite “use it now” interactive strategies.

**The Six Conditions of Systems Change:** For many organizations and individuals, the concept of systems change is difficult to grasp and even more challenging to apply in their daily work. [Join](#) Senior Consultant Hayling Price, and John Kania, coauthor of *The Water of Systems Change* as they discuss how to tackle the concepts and conditions involved with systems change work on January 24 from 3:00-4:00 ET.

**You are Not Alone** is a new six-part series from KET featuring people on the front lines of youth mental-health advocacy and issues. The series aims to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and offer solutions. Topics explored include depression, anxiety, suicide prevention, trauma and toxic stress, stigma, youth advocacy, parental concerns and challenges, the role of schools, and

promising strategies within school settings. The half-hour programs air back-to-back on KET for three Mondays, beginning at 9/8 pm. You can watch the episodes that already aired on [KETs You are Not Alone page](#).

**Solutions to the Dropout Crisis Webcasts:** *Solutions to the Dropout Crisis* webcasts are always offered free of cost, and no registration is required. Tune in the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM ET for new [Solutions to the Dropout Crisis](#), where you can also find recordings of previous webcasts.

### Conferences and Activities

**Systems of Care Academy:** The dates are set for the 6th Annual System of Care Academy, Supporting Social & Emotional Health Across the Lifespan: It Starts with Us. The event will be held June 18-19 at the Marriott Griffin Gate, Lexington KY. If you are interested in presenting, the deadline for submissions is February 5, 2019. For more information please contact Lea.Taylor@ky.gov.

**At-Risk Youth National Forum:** [Registration is open](#) for the 2019 At-Risk Youth National FORUM. Efforts to reach at-risk youth begin with CONNECTION. This year's FORUM focuses on the skill of connecting. The conference offers breakout sessions and skill building workshops that help leaders build systems that are conducive to connections and that demonstrate skills to assist youth practitioners in their efforts to connect. This will take place February 17-20 in Myrtle Beach, NC.

**Winter KDE Continuous Improvement (Novice Reduction) Workshop January 28th:** "Mind Shift: Moving from a Culture of Teaching to a Culture of Learning" is an interactive six-hour session in which Continuous Improvement Coaches will assist participants in using instructional models as frameworks for creating highly effective lessons that exemplify a mindset shift from teaching to learning. As educators seek to develop a culture where learning is the core business of schools/districts, they will need to deepen their understanding of how to utilize metacognitive strategies to allow learners the autonomy for learning. This shift will promulgate an increase in student self-regulated learning as well as Collective Teacher Efficacy – both influences from Hattie's work. In addition, the session will provide an opportunity for participants to deepen their work with metacognitive thinking rather than with isolated strategies. Target audience for the workshops are teachers, instructional coaches and administrators. **EILA credit will be provided upon request.** Please visit the Novice Reduction webpages to register for a workshop (<https://education.ky.gov/school/stratclsgap/Pages/default.aspx>). If you have any questions, please contact one of the Continuous Improvement Coaches for more details.

**We are grateful for you and the hard work you do every day.**

If you would like to contribute any information (resources, celebrations, etc.) to this enews, please email [judi.vanderhaar@education.ky.gov](mailto:judi.vanderhaar@education.ky.gov). Also, please share this link with your colleagues who might be interested in subscribing to the [Persistence to Graduation listserv](#) (right click to subscribe)